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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VATICAN 005546

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SA/PAB (GEETA PASI)

FROM EMBASSY VATICAN/MESSAGE NO. 185/01

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/23/11

TAGS: [PREL](#) [AF](#) [AF](#) [VT](#) [VTPREL](#)

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL FOR JEFF LUNSTEAD, SENIOR

POLICY COORDINATOR FOR AFGHANISTAN.

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR, REASON 1.5(B,D).

[1](#)1. SUBJECT: SENIOR ADVISOR FOR AFGHANISTAN BRIEFS
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VATICAN.

REF. STATE 184178

[1](#)2. (C) SUMMARY: SENIOR ADVISOR AND AFGHANISTAN COORDINATOR JOINED AMBASSADOR TO BRIEF VATICAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER 10/20 ON U.S. EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN. DFM NOTED THE VATICAN WAS ARRANGING A 10/28-10/29 INTERFAITH MEETING IN CAIRO OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS THAT WOULD ALSO ADDRESS 9/11 AND ITS AFTERMATH. DFM SKETCHED VARIOUS VATICAN CONTRIBUTIONS OF EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AID TO AFGHAN REFUGEES. DFM INDICATED THERE ARE TWO OR THREE NUNS CURRENTLY WORKING IN A KABUL HOSPITAL. DFM EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE KASHMIR SITUATION AND AFGHAN MILITARY CAMPAIGN COULD DESTABILIZE THE GOP, WITH REPERCUSSIONS FOR PAKISTAN'S SIZEABLE CATHOLIC MINORITY. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)3. (C) SENIOR ADVISOR AND AFGHANISTAN COORDINATOR JEFFREY [1](#)J. LUNSTEAD AND AMBASSADOR BRIEFED VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS 10/20 ON U.S. EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN. THE AMBASSADOR AND LUNSTEAD SAW MONSIGNOR CELESTINO MIGLIORE, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER-EQUIVALENT, AND EAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN DESK OFFICER MONSIGNOR LUIS MARRANO DE MONTEMAYOR; AFGHAN DESK OFFICER GEETA PASI AND EMBOFF ALSO ATTENDED.

[1](#)4. (C) DFM MIGLIORE SPOKE POSITIVELY OF THE CIRCUMSPECTION EVIDENT IN THE U.S. RESPONSE, THOUGH HE NOTED THAT THE HOLY SEE COULD NEVER APPLAUD WARFARE. WITHIN INTERNATIONAL BODIES, SUCH AS THE U.N., THE HOLY SEE WOULD SUPPORT FURTHER POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL INITIATIVES. WHERE THE
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HOLY SEE COULD PLAY A DIRECT LEADERSHIP ROLE WAS IN CULTURAL AFFAIRS, SPECIFICALLY THROUGH INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE, MIGLIORE SAID. HE INDICATED THAT THE CONGREGATION FOR RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE, AN INSTITUTIONAL ARM OF THE VATICAN, WAS ORGANIZING A MEETING OF ISLAMIC AND CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS AT EL HAZARA UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO.

[1](#)5. (C) MIGLIORE SHARED CONCERNS THAT THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN WAS OUTSTRIPPING POLITICAL STRATEGIES. HE OBSERVED THAT NEIGHBORING NATIONS IN FACT SHARED FEW COMMON INTERESTS, AN IMPEDIMENT TO ANY TRUE REGIONAL COALITION. ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY, MIGLIORE VOLUNTEERED THAT IT PREDATED THE PRESENT MILITARY CAMPAIGN. WINTERTIME, HE ADDED, WOULD SEE A DRAMATIC WORSENING. THE VATICAN IS CONTRIBUTING AND COORDINATING SOME RELIEF ASSISTANCE, THROUGH CARITAS AND COR UNUM (LOOSELY, VATICAN EQUIVALENTS TO USAID). CARITAS, HE SAID, HAS AN INFORMAL PRESENCE IN TEHERAN. ALSO, THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA (SMOM) IS SET TO INITIATE HUMANITARIAN WORK IN IRAN. SUCH EFFORTS CONSTITUTE EMERGENCY AID ONLY, MIGLIORE SAID; A FINAL POLITICAL SOLUTION IS IMPERATIVE. MOREOVER, HE DREADED GLOBAL ECONOMIC COLLAPSE SHOULD THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN EXTEND TO IRAQ.

[1](#)6. (C) LUNSTEAD SOUGHT INFORMATION ON VATICAN PERSONNEL/ECCLESIASTICS STILL IN AFGHANISTAN. MONTEMAYOR STATED THERE WERE THREE NUNS BEFORE MIGLIORE CORRECTED HIM THAT ONLY TWO REMAIN, THE THIRD HAVING LEFT FOR FRANCE ON MEDICAL GROUNDS. THE VATICAN HAS NO EASY MEANS TO CONTACT THE NUNS, MONTEMAYOR CLAIMED. THEY WERE FOREIGN NATIONALS,
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LONG RESIDENT IN AFGHANISTAN, AND CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE INDIRA GANDHI HOSPITAL IN KABUL. (COMMENT: MONTEMAYOR LATER PHONED EMBOFF TO RELATE THERE ARE INDEED THREE NUNS IN KABUL, AFFILIATED WITH INDIRA GANDHI AND A CLINIC BY THE NAME OF ALI ABAD. THE NUNS ARE MEMBERS OF THE LITTLE SISTERS OF JESUS. THE VATICAN REQUESTED WE NOT PUBLICIZE

THEIR PRESENCE IN KABUL.)

17. (C) MIGLIORE ASKED LUNSTEAD'S THINKING ON KASHMIR. LUNSTEAD CONCEDED THE PROBLEM WAS GRAVE; CERTAIN TERRORISTS IN KASHMIR HAD RECEIVED TRAINING IN PAKISTAN AND IN EL QAEDA CAMPS. THE SECRETARY, HE NOTED, HAD CONDEMNED ALL TERRORISM, INCLUDING ACTS AGAINST INDIA. GENERAL MUSHARRAFF, HE SUGGESTED, NOW HAD A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING STABILITY TO THE SITUATION.

18. (C) MIGLIORE REQUESTED AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE HUMANITARIAN CAMPAIGN. LUNSTEAD CONCEDED THERE WERE SEVERE PROBLEMS. THE SEPTEMBER DEPARTURE OF NON-AFGHAN AID WORKERS CAPABLE OF MANAGING SUPPLIES AND DISTRIBUTION WAS A COMPLICATING FACTOR. MOREOVER, RECENT TALIBAN ACTIONS -- SEIZING WAREHOUSES AND BEATING AFGHAN AID WORKERS -- WAS DEEPLY DISTURBING. THE TALIBAN'S LONGSTANDING LACK OF CONCERN FOR THE AFGHAN POPULATION WAS SIGNIFICANT, HE ADDED, WITH THE OUTSIDE

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ACTION SA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DS-00
	EUR-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	NEA-00
	DCP-01	NSAE-00	SSO-00	SS-00	EPAE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	SAS-00	/004W		

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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL FOR JEFF LUNSTEAD, SENIOR
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WORLD STEPPING INTO THE GAP. HE ADMITTED THAT AIRDROPS TO REMOTE SPOTS WERE NOT AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION, YET ADDED THESE CONSTITUTED A VALUABLE DEMONSTRATION. CONCERN RUNS
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HIGH IN IRAN AND PAKISTAN AT A SURGE IN REFUGEES, YET MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN, INCLUDING UNHCR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW REFUGEE SITES, IF NEEDED, LUNSTEAD SAID. THUS FAR, THE FLOW OF NEW REFUGEES HAS REMAINED LOW.

19. (C) LUNSTEAD, AT THE AMBASSADOR'S ENCOURAGEMENT, REMARKED BRIEFLY ON HIS 10/19 ENCOUNTER WITH THE KING. HE DESCRIBED THE KING AS PHYSICALLY FRAIL YET NOT IMMOBILE, AND AS MENTALLY ACUTE, WITH NO DESIRE TO RETURN TO RULE IN AFGHANISTAN, JUST AN EXILE'S HOPE FOR BURIAL IN HIS HOMELAND. HIS ENTOURAGE WAS HAMPERED BY INTRIGUE, LUNSTEAD ADDED. ASKED BY MIGLIORE IF THE KING WERE WILLING TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP, LUNSTEAD ANSWERED THAT THE KING KNEW HE WOULD NEVER RULE AGAIN. HE WAS AN OLD MAN, WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT SECURITY THREATS THAT KEPT HIM FROM HIS DAILY GARDEN STROLL. THE U.S. HARBORED NO ILLUSIONS, LUNSTEAD SAID, ADDING THE KING'S ENTOURAGE HAD BEEN IRRESOLUTE IN THE PAST.

10. (C) ASKED TO EXPAND ON THE AFOREMENTIONED CAIRO ENCOUNTER, MIGLIORE STIPULATED THE 10/28-10/29 AL HEZAR MEETING WOULD BE AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION AND WOULD RESPOND TO SEPTEMBER 11 AND ITS AFTERMATH. MIGLIORE EMPHASIZED THAT THE HOLY SEE IS A SPIRITUAL, ETHICAL AND MORAL ENTITY, WHOSE MISSION IS NOT POLITICAL BUT RELIGIOUS. THE MASSES IN ISLAMIC SOCIETIES, HE OBSERVED, DEPEND ON RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP; IF RELIGIOUS LEADERS WILL NOT DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM VIOLENCE, THEN NEITHER WILL THE POPULATION AT LARGE. MIGLIORE SUGGESTED THE HOLY SEE CAN PLAY A ROLE TO CONVINCE RELIGIOUS COUNTERPARTS TO REPUDIATE VIOLENCE. MIGLIORE LEVIED FAINT PRAISE AT A SIMILAR EFFORT HELD BY
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SANT'EGIDIO 10/3-10/4 IN ROME. (COMMENT: SANT'EGIDIO IS A PROMINENT ROME-BASED CATHOLIC NGO FAMED FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION, NOTABLY THE PEACEFUL END TO THE MOZAMBIQUE CIVIL WAR BROKERED IN 1993.) MIGLIORE LAUDED SANT'EGIDIO'S ABILITY TO GATHER ISLAMIC LEADERS QUICKLY, YET HE

QUESTIONED THE VALUE OF A GET-TOGETHER THAT DID NOT PRODUCE A PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE, NOT JUST A DOCUMENT SIGNED IN ENGLISH THAT WOULD NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY IN PARTICIPANT'S HOME COUNTRIES. MAYBE FUTURE SANT'EGIDIO MEETINGS WOULD BE MORE CONSTRUCTIVE, MIGLIORE MUSED.

11. (C) LUNSTEAD DECRIED RHETORIC OF A CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS. IF THE WEST IS SEEN AS ISLAM'S ENEMY, THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE CATASTROPHIC. THIS IS A FURTHER REASON FOR SWIFT CONCLUSION TO THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN, AS GENERAL MUSHARRAFF HAS PLEADED, VOICING HIS POPULATION'S ANGER AT THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN. MONTEMAYOR REMARKED CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP LIKEWISE ABHORS THE BOMBING; IMAGES OF CONTINUAL BOMBARDMENT AND CIVILIAN INJURIES DETRACT FROM THE UNIFIED EFFORT TO COMBAT TERRORISM. MIGLIORE WORRIED FURTHER AT THE RISK TO PAKISTAN'S STABILITY AND TO ITS ONE MILLION-STRONG CATHOLIC POPULATION. LUNDSTEAD HOWEVER VOICED CONFIDENCE IN GENERAL MUSHARRAFF, PRAISING HIS SWIFT REPUDIATION OF THE TALIBAN, A TURNAROUND THAT RAISES HOPES MUSHARRAFF WILL NOW ALSO FACE DOWN RADICAL ISLAM WITHIN PAKISTAN, THEREBY ALSO BETTERING CONDITIONS FOR PAKISTAN'S RELIGIOUS MINORITIES.
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